

ERIE-NIAGARA REGIONAL PARTNERSHIP

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Memorandum

To: ENRP Co-Chairs Bradley Erck & Barry Weinstein, MD

From: Economic Development Subcommittee Chair John Simon

Re: March & April 2002 meetings

Date: April 26, 2002

The Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership's Economic Development Subcommittee met March 18 and April 15, 2002 at Pizzeria Uno's on Maple Road. Present for the March meeting were subcommittee members Simon, Cusack, Eldridge, Erck, and Titus, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein. Present for the April meeting were subcommittee members Simon, Cusack, Eldridge, Erck, and Titus, as well as ENRP Co-Chair Weinstein.

Power Relicensing

Although both counties are participating in the Relicensing Consensus Committee and supporting the alternative method for power relicensing, the ENRP has yet to take a formal position on the matter. **The Economic Development Subcommittee is seeking approval for the Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership to send a letter to the New York Power Authority endorsing the alternative method for power relicensing.** The letter is attached to this subcommittee report.

Niagara Falls Airport

The Niagara Falls Airport continues to languish following the failed Cintra deal, and the Niagara County Industrial Development Agency continues to be interested in the operation of the facility. While this is a long term issue, in the short term the NCIDA is looking for the NFTA to allow them to put together a financial and strategic plan for the airport. So far, however, the NFTA has turned down the NCIDA's offer to do so. Given the importance of the airport to future economic development in the region, it is felt that plans should be moved forward for the airport. **The Economic Development Subcommittee is seeking approval for the Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership to recommend that the Erie and Niagara County Legislatures pass a resolution asking the NFTA to allow the NCIDA to put together a financial and strategic plan for the Niagara Falls Airport.**

BNE Site Readiness Working Group

A working group has been established to do follow up work from the site readiness study commissioned by the Buffalo Niagara Enterprise and the ENRP last year. There are three distinct issues involved: marketing the 17 shovel ready sites identified in the survey; ranking and developing at least some of the near-shovel ready sites (the “next tier” of sites); and identifying brownfields in the Cities of Buffalo and Niagara Falls for redevelopment, as none of these sites are shovel ready or near-shovel ready, but it is nonetheless key to the revitalization of the cities that brownfields redevelopment move forward. These issues will be tackled in the working group. **The Economic Development Subcommittee recommends that the Erie-Niagara Regional Partnership designate a representative to serve on the BNE site readiness working group.**

Regional Economic Development Database (REDD)

As detailed at the March general meeting there are several transition issues for the future of REDD. The subcommittee has decided to research the use of REDD both in terms of number of total hits and determining who is using the REDD (BNE, site selectors, etc.). This is the first step in determining future housing and funding for the database.

Other Topics

Other topics discussed included the produce quick-cool project, joint publication of fishing maps, casino gaming, electronic permitting, international bridge traffic, bioinformatics, and workforce development.